

AWARDS AND GRANTS



Win Prize Money for Your School's Recycling & Waste Reduction Program!

Public schools that operate waste reduction and recycling programs are encouraged to apply for the State Department of Ecology (Ecology) twelfth annual Terry Husseman Outstanding Waste Reduction and Recycling (WRR) in Public Schools Awards. Several schools will share \$15,000 in 2001 with award amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500. Applications will be judged on the basis of comprehensive, efficient, and innovative approaches to waste reduction and recycling during the 2000-2001 school year. The deadline for applications is 5pm, Friday, March 16, 2001. For more information or an application package, contact Michelle Payne, School Awards Coordinator, Department of Ecology, Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program, (360) 407-6129, or email at mdav461@ecy.wa.gov.

2000-01 Washington Environmental Education Awards

The Environmental Education Association of Washington (EEAW) would like your nominations for three award categories in environmental education: outstanding environmental educators, community catalyst, and organizational excellence. Individuals, organizations, and programs are eligible for awards. You can nominate others or yourself. For more information, visit the EEAW website at www.eeaw.org. The deadline for nominations is February 3rd and recipients will be honored at the EEAW annual conference on March 31, 2001.



Small Change For A Big Difference Grants Now Available

Small Change for a Big Difference is a grant program of the King County Department of Natural Resources that funds projects up to \$1000. Funds must support salmon and watershed education, enhancement, protection, and restoration efforts in King County. Get the new grant guidelines at our website <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/grants.htm> and send us your Letter of Intent today. Or request the guidelines by leaving your name and mailing address with Donna Kalka at (206) 296-8494 or e-mail donna.kalka@metrokc.gov.

For more details on these and other programs, visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpg.htm>

Next month look for information on this year's mulching mower discount sales on the King County Solid Waste Division website <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/>.

Class Act — January 2001

King County Solid Waste Division School Newsletter

c/o Triangle Associates, Inc.

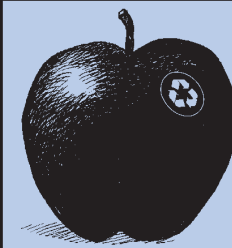
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PASS IT ON—
When you are
done with this
issue, pass it on
to someone else
who may be
interested.



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Class Act

King County Solid Waste Division's School Recycling Program Newsletter



Volume 5
Number 2
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Honor Your "Earth Hero at School"

"Do you know someone who is doing exceptional work for the environment in our local schools?" Ron Sims is asking the citizens of King County to help him identify those deserving recognition for their efforts. They may be teachers, students, staff, specific programs or entire schools. "We know King County has numerous shining examples of creative and effective Earth Heroes in our schools. We would like to honor them during the month of March," said Sims. Nominations will be accepted until February 28. **Use the enclosed form or request additional forms from www.metrokc.gov/earthlegacy or by calling (206) 296-4353.** Award winners will be acknowledged on March 27th at the Earth Heroes at School Award Ceremony.



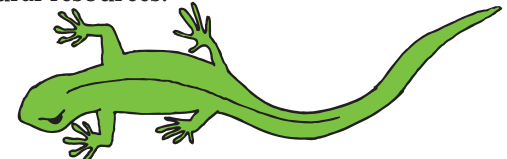
**King County
Earth Legacy 2001**

The Earth Heroes at School Program is part of a countywide Earth Legacy Initiative, which consists of a number of programs that protect and enhance the environment of King County. Earth Heroes are the people in our midst who work tirelessly to protect our land, air and water resources. Many of the exceptional people and outstanding projects in our schools that are really making a difference can be models for similar projects in other schools, classrooms and communities.

Hazards on the Homefront Teacher Workshop

Come to a free teacher workshop on Saturday, February 10, 2001, 8:00 a.m. - noon at the Tukwila Community Center. This workshop will introduce fun ways to teach your students:

- How to build reading, writing, and research skills;
- Safer alternatives to hazardous household products;
- Actions they can take to protect the environment;
- How to improve their health and safety;
- How to be wise consumers of our natural resources.



The workshop includes: \$50 stipend for King County teachers, free teaching and classroom materials tied to EALRs for grades 4-12, refreshments, clock hours, and much, much more! If you are interested in attending this workshop, contact Karen Schrantz at (206) 583-0655 or email: kschranzt@triangleassociates.com.

Where Does It Go When You Flush?

Tour a regional wastewater treatment plant. Follow the process of treating and reclaiming wastewater and biosolids from the King County service area. Tour attendees must be 5th grade and above. There is a limit of one classroom size tour group per day. Participate in a half-hour water quality presentation combined with a 1.5 hour treatment plant walking tour. Call Denise Chanez at (206) 296-8286 for information.

CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS

Out of This World Recycling Education for Kindergarten and Preschool Classes

Professional storyteller Kathie Vitz will enchant your kindergarten or preschool students with the story of Zeela, an interstellar traveler who journeys from her planet Zergatron to Earth in search of an answer of what to do with too much garbage. She learns from her human friends how recycling cuts down on waste. *Adventures with Zeela* is suitable for students ages 4-6 and is provided FREE by the King County Solid Waste Division for schools outside Seattle. To schedule, please call Kathie Vitz at (206) 789-0754.

Natural Connections Workshops

Expanding upon the themes presented in King County's documentary, *Natural Connections*, these two exciting and interactive workshops link resource conservation, recycling and preventing waste to preserving biodiversity and the quality of life on Earth. These 45 or 75-minute workshops, appropriate for grades 6-12, will accommodate up to 30 students. Choose one or both of the following:

Biodiversity in Our World – What is biodiversity and why is it important to humans? Through challenging discussions, and fun, hands-on activities, students will gain a clear understanding of biodiversity and ecosystems. Students rotate through activity stations, exploring the concepts of biodiversity, resource conservation and the preservation of healthy ecosystems.

Soils For Salmon – Salmon don't live in soil! So why is soil important? Your students will discover how soil is interconnected to aquatic wildlife and humans in this lively and engaging workshop. They will also gain an understanding of the positive human impacts of resource conservation and the role of compost in maintaining healthy soils.

Call Colleen Jones at (206) 343-9759 ext.112 for more information, or to schedule.

Classroom Presentations on WRR

If you are interested in having a Master Recycler Composter (MRC) visit your classroom to address waste reduction, recycling or composting topics, contact the MRC Hotline at (206) 343-8505. MRCs have presented information about how to create a waste-free lunch, educated students about what materials are recyclable, and have taught students how to create worm bins for food waste composting. Other ideas are welcome! MRC volunteers are a great resource for schools and we encourage you to tap into this talented pool of experts.



Nature Connections with King County Park System

Immerse your students in nature through these fun, learning-centered, grade-appropriate, hands-on programs. Choose from a menu which includes:

- **Habitat Connections:** Get your students out to experience some of King County's unique habitats. Includes a one-hour classroom visit and a one-hour field trip. Choose from marine, wetland, stream and forest habitats. \$80
- **Nature in the Classroom:** A Naturalist will present a one-hour program, with more than 30 topics offered, including Animal Adaptations, Amazing Insects, Native Plant Uses, Animal Senses and Pond Dipping. \$38.50
- **Outdoor Discovery Day:** A custom-designed field day or science fair for multiple classrooms can be arranged. Call for details and prices.

If you are on the King County Parks mailing list, you will receive registration information in early February. Otherwise, contact the Interpretive Programs Office at (206) 296-4214 or ipo.parks@metrokc.gov.



Sign Up Now For *Slugs, Bugs, and Dirty Toilets*



Spaces are still available for the free, in-class presentation, *Slugs, Bugs and Dirty Toilets*. In this highly interactive, one-hour program, your students will learn about hazardous household products as they:

- Handle over 60 real household products and find the hazardous ones.
- Shuffle environment photo cards to trace the route of hazards from home to stream.
- Vote "yea or nay" on pictures of hazardous waste disposal options.
- Make a mess and clean it up with safer products.
- Tell their own stories and hear true-life tales of health hazards at home.
- Shop for safer products or play Toxic-Free Bingo.



A teacher packet, Green Cleaning Kit, and student take-home activities are provided. The program is open to grades 4-12. Teachers often use this presentation to support their classroom studies of salmon, environment, health, biology, chemistry, and ChemComm. To sign up for spots through April, call Gail Gensler at (206) 263-3082 or email her at gail.gensler@metrokc.gov. To learn more about the program, visit <http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/teachers/>.

From Waste to Reuse!

Your class can easily learn how everyday wastewater from more than a million local residents is transformed to a nutrient-rich soil amendment called biosolids. Understand how biosolids are processed then returned to the earth to replenish soil nutrients and organic matter. Videos, speakers and tours of forestry, agriculture and restoration projects are available. Call (206) 684-1247 to arrange.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Become an Expert on Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Composting

The next annual training for King County's Master Recycler Composter (MRC) training will be held in spring 2001 in south King County. Training includes classroom sessions, field demonstrations, and hands-on activities. Topics include resource conservation, waste prevention, recycling, home composting, and alternatives to household hazardous waste. In return for the training, program graduates agree to share their knowledge and skills by volunteering 40 hours of community outreach (schools included!). Anyone who lives in King County outside of Seattle is eligible to apply. Clock or credit hours can be earned for participation. For information, contact Karen May at (206) 296-4353 or karen.may@metrokc.gov.

Working to Build a Hazard-Free Classroom

Science lab teachers can minimize hazards in the classroom by learning techniques to reduce the amount of chemicals used in experiments. This free lab safety

workshop addresses chemical storage, laboratory safety, hazardous waste management, small-scale chemistry, and least toxic labs. A full-day workshop is scheduled for February 3 at South Seattle Community College. Two-part evening workshops will be held February 5 and 7 at Shoreline Conference Center and March 7 and 9 at Lake Washington School District. Clock hours are available. For more information, email kellie@cascadiaconsulting.com or call (206) 343-9759 ext. 101 or 102.

Free Compost Training

Is your school or district interested in composting its landscape waste on site? King County is providing a free, in-depth, compost training program for organic waste generators with small, medium and large-scale operations, particularly those with no prior experience with composting. The training series begins in Renton, Wednesday, January 31, and continues for six sessions on various Wednesday evenings and Saturdays through February. For more information, contact Peter Moon at 1-800-611-3718 or pricemoon@aol.com.